Abstract:

Marxism is a structural analysis approach that uses a materialist interpretation of historical development to view class relations and social conflict, and takes a dialectical view of social change. This comes from the works of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, German philosophers of the 19th century. Marxism has developed into many different branches and schools of thought, resulting in no single unified theory of Marxism. The role of literature in the class struggle is explored by Marxist literary criticism. An Indian author, poet and travel writer, Vikram Seth is best known for his epic novel *A Suitable Boy*. For more than three decades, he has been in the writing industry and is considered one of the most influential authors of the modern era. Vikram Seth was born on 1952 in Calcutta, India. Seth's works address a number of themes focused on his journeys and experiences. Seth returned to India to focus on his great epic, *A Suitable Boy*. The main objective in this paper is to point out the impacts of Marxism in India's post-independence identified in the novel *A Suitable Boy* of Seth.

Key words: Marxism, Post-Independence India, Zamindari Abolition Act
Introduction:

The term Marxism was popularized by Karl Kautsky, who, in the dispute between Marx's orthodox and revisionist followers, considered himself an orthodox Marxist. Since the establishment of an independent, if truncated, Indian "Nation-State" in 1947, Marxism has played a central role in Indian political thinking. And indeed, within the 1920s nationalist movement, Marxist theories were highly influential. This was not linked in particular to the position of the Communist Party or Parties, whose electoral power was largely confined to one of the country's two regions, but to the much wider presence of Marxist ideology in post-independence India among other political parties and institutions. Marxist literary criticism's simplest aims may include an evaluation of a literary work's political 'tendency,' deciding whether it is 'progressive' in its social content or literary type. In addition, another aspect of Marxist criticism is to examine the class struggle narrative in a given text. The relationship between literature and culture, literature and society and literature and social, political and economic factors must be taken into account in order to understand the Marxist view of literature. The novel *A Suitable Boy* also deals with some Marxist ideas through its characters.

**Vikram Seth’s *A Suitable Boy*:**

Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy* assumes country as a systematic philosophical statement that goes beyond space to accept the transformation from self to locality to state and disembark the nation inherently. Seth formulates an imaginary kingdom in North India's Purva Pradesh, and Brahmapur becomes India's microcosm. In addition, he incorporates a variety of cultures from North Indian cities such as Delhi, Lucknow, Agra, Benaras, Patna, and Ayodhya. Seth's unique North Indian locality formation is a reminder of the cycle in which nation-forming is part of
nation-building. The idealization of historical events, beliefs, and linguistic practices is the basis for an organic nationhood philosophy that represents the representativeness of a nation or national claim. The novel's narratives depict India's realities with secular purpose. The book, set against one of the main periods in Indian history, illustrates the different challenges and issues faced by the process of decolonization, nationhood and nationalism. In the 1950s, making India a country and defining the Indian identity was critical. When the nationalist wars saw their end, India started to develop itself in the making as a nation-state. Seth discusses major national issues with post-independent political coloring, the consequences of partitioning, the persistence of old traditions, land reform issues, and anticipated development as a country. A Suitable Boy as a postcolonial narrative swathes the socio-political issues that covers the post-colonial India.

**The impacts of Marxism in post-independence India portrayed in *A Suitable Boy***:

In a post-independence, post-partition India, a suitable boy is set up. The novel follows the story of four families over an 18-month span and focuses on the attempts of Mrs. Rupa Mehra to arrange her younger daughter, Lata's marriage to a "suitable boy". Lata is a 19-year-old student at the university who refuses to be swayed by Arun, her dominant mother or opinionated uncle. Her story revolves around her choice between Kabir, Haresh, and Amit, her suitors. It begins in Brahmpur's fictional town, located between Banaras and Patna on the Ganges. Brahmpur is a lively backdrop for the emerging stories, along with Calcutta, Delhi, Kanpur and other Indian cities. Alternatively, the 1535-page novel provides a satirical and serious analysis of national political issues in the period leading up to the first post-Independence national election in 1952, including Hindu-Muslim conflict, the status of lower caste communities such as Jatav, land reforms and the eclipse of feudal princes and landowners, academic relations, abolition of the Zamindari regime, family relations and a range of further issues of importance to the characters.
In this novel, one can find the impacts of Marxism in the post-independence India through the character named Rasheed. Rasheed belongs to a landlord family. Once, he took Mann Kapoor, his friend, to his native village Salimpur. Both visited the slums of the village. Rasheed introduced an old man named Kaccheru to Mann Kapoor. In this scene, the impacts of Marxism revealed from the words of Rasheedas follows;

The old man and his wife lived by themselves in a single thatched room which they shared at night with their cow and a large number of insects…

Despite Rasheed’s politeness, they treated him with extreme, even fearful, deference. It was only when he agreed to have a cup of tea with them in their hut – agreeing thus on Mann’s behalf as well – those they seemed to be a little more at ease…

What happened to Dharampal’s son – your nephew? Asked Rasheed…

‘He died a month ago,’ said Kachheru shortly.

‘All those doctors?’

‘No use, except to eat money. Now my brother’s in debt with the Bania and my sister-in-law, well, you wouldn’t recognize her any more. She’s just gone to her father’s village. She’ll stay there for a month or so – until the rain begin.’…

After they left, Maan could see that Rasheed was very upset. Neither said anything for a while. Then Rasheed said:

‘We are tied to earth by such fine threads. And there is so much injustice – so much – it drives me mad. (596)
From the above words from the novel a suitable boy, the character Rasheed reveals his socialist identity even though he is from the family of landlord. Rasheed wants to share the lands equally to the poor people. His activities tensed both his family and his relatives in the village. This also depicted from the conversation between Rasheed and his father in the novel as follows;

My way of life? Said Rasheed, some slight sharpness escaping into his tone of voice. He felt that it hardly suited his father to criticize his way of life…

‘On your first evening in the village, you missed both the evening and the night prayer. Today when I went into the fields I wanted you to accompany me – but you were nowhere to be seen. I had something important to show you and discuss with you. Some land. What kind of influence will people think you are under? And you spend your day going around from the house of the washer man to the house of the sweeper, asking about this one’s son and that one’s nephew, but spending no time with your own family. It is no secret that many people here think that you are a communist’. (610)

Conclusion:

Marxism is not only the philosophy for India as well as the philosophy for the world. Due to Globalization, it roots its influence in India too. It is revealed in the works of Indian writers. Vikram Seth is not the supporter of Marxism. In case of writing about Indian society his hands were forced to write about the realistic pictures of post-independence India. Thus the novel A Suitable Boy penned by Vikram Seth reveals the impacts of Marxism in the post-independence India.
References:


